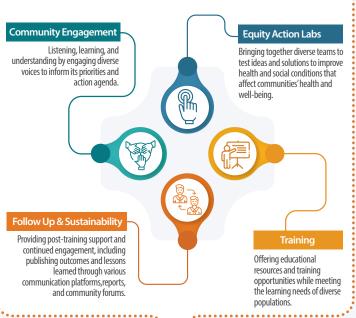




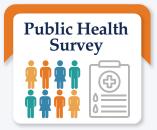
>>> Background of the Center

In 2022, **UF Health Jacksonville** and its community partners **904WARD**, **Hispanic Federation**, and **Florida Health Justice Project** established a statewide center to address the health and the social drivers necessary for communities to achieve the highest levels of health and well - being with a four-year grant from the Florida Blue Foundation.

>> How does the Center Serve?



Community Engagement



In 2023, the Center surveyed 999 Floridians, in collaboration with the Public Opinion Research Lab at the University of North Florida, to understand their views on health issues across the state.



Key findings from the survey include:

» Health Information and Resources



Do not know how to access health resources in their community.

Get health information from media sources (internet, social media, television, newspapers).

46%

Get health information from a doctor.

43%

(Figure 6, Page 11), (Figure 7, Page 12)

» Health Care Experiences

Strongly or somewhat agree that they have experienced discrimination in a healthcare setting. 26%

(Figure 9, Page 13)

» Health and the Environment

Somewhat or strongly disagree that they have clean, clear, and safe drinking water where they live.\(^1\) Somewhat or strongly disagree that they live in a place that is free from harmful contaminants.\(^2\) 20%

¹(Table 2, Page 27), ²(Table 1, Page 28)

>> Health and Housing



Somewhat or strongly disagree that they can afford healthy food.\(^1\)

Somewhat or strongly disagree that they have their own stable housing.\(^2\)

12%

1(Table 2, Page 29), 2(Table 1, Page 29).

2023 Center for Thriving Communities' Community Engagement Report.











Quotes from Listening Sessions

'Mental health I think is really important here. I think that contributes to a lot of gun violence and drug use and heart health and crime and safety. So I think mental health is, especially in black communities, I think it's very important. A lot of them is end up being locked up, messed up, or because they need some intervention and they don't have it."

(Maternal African American Population, Mental Health, Pg. 18)

"I was recently ghosted by a therapist because I asked them to use my correct pronouns and then they just canceled all of my sessions."

(LGBTQ+, Discrimination by Health Providers Session, Pg. 21)



Residents shared their views and experiences on a variety of health and social issues.

far between, and the wait list ranges anywhere from three to five years. So, we have people living



"They have resources, but they don't let the people know what kind of resources they have. They have 'em but you just don't know nothing about 'em." (Rural Population, Available Services, Pg. 21)



Available Resources



>> Outcomes of Community Engagement

In 2024, the Center launched its Training and Equity Action Lab pillars. An Equity Action Lab is a model that engages community members to address a health improvement goal. These two pillars, initially focused on mental health, the number one priority identified through the Center's 2023 listening sessions.

